

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)  
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 9/11/2014 3:13:16 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/11/14

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#### OPA Daily Digest for 9/11/14

#### Congressional Inquiries:

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo.) – Email – 9/9/14: Question about EPA’s Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act listening sessions. Due: 9/11/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

**Sen. Deb Fischer** (Neb.) – Phone inquiry – 9/9/14: Questions about water systems on Indian lands. Due: 9/11/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Roy Blunt** (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Dave Loesback** (Iowa) – Letter – 9/4/14: Redevelopment of former RCRA site Elkem Metals Company in Keokuk. Due: 9/19/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

#### State Government Inquiries:

None

#### Press Inquiries:

**Burlington Hawk Eye (Iowa)** – Kathleen Finn – 9/2/14: Questions regarding Univar RCRA site. Contact: David Bryan, 7322 (open)

**West Plains Daily Quill** – Denise Vaughn – 9/9/14: Questions regarding issues with the Coastal Energy tank farm in Willow Springs, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

#### Environmental Stories:

**Lincoln Journal Star - Regional EPA leader takes state ag director to task** – 9/11/14 - A top regional EPA official has taken Nebraska Ag Director Greg Ibach to task for calling the federal agency "the biggest regulatory problem" facing agriculture and for the exclusion of an EPA representative from a state pesticide planning meeting.  
[http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/regional-epa-leader-takes-state-ag-director-to-task/article\\_3182d4a3-d309-585c-b3d1-450831babd44.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/regional-epa-leader-takes-state-ag-director-to-task/article_3182d4a3-d309-585c-b3d1-450831babd44.html)

**Greenwire - Agency not a 'threat,' regional administrator tells Neb. ag director** - 9/11/14 - U.S. EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks is defending his agency's work with agricultural producers against recent claims by Nebraska officials that EPA poses a threat to the sector.

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/09/11/stories/1060005670>

**Brownfield Ag News - More efforts to stop water rule** - 9/10/14 - More efforts are underway to try and stop the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule. As the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meets this week, North Dakota's Ag Commissioner will submit an action item for approval by NASDA members calling for the withdrawal of the proposed rule. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/10/more-efforts-to-stop-water-rule/>

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Letter, 9/10: Hassebrook's liberal vision** - 9/10/14 - Gov. Dave Heineman recently called EPA the "enemy of agriculture." He was talking about its proposed Waters of the U.S. rule. He was right to do so. EPA's rule would allow for much more regulation of our family's ranch and on farms and ranches like it across the state. [http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-hassebrook-s-liberal-vision/article\\_d6e82000-b843-599a-9ca3-4179d83b7d5f.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-hassebrook-s-liberal-vision/article_d6e82000-b843-599a-9ca3-4179d83b7d5f.html)

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Letter: Show the evidence** - 9/8/14 - When a state governor, who is elected to represent all and not just a few people of a state, categorically states without qualification that the Environmental Protection Agency is the enemy of the farm and ranch industry, there should be a compelling obligation to ask, "Where is the evidence to support a broad statement of that nature?" [http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-show-the-evidence/article\\_69eae393-513d-5dce-abf8-14948bbe5efd.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-show-the-evidence/article_69eae393-513d-5dce-abf8-14948bbe5efd.html)

**AgriMarketing - Ag Leaders Provide Water Quality, Agriculture Overview** – 9/11/14 - EPA's Karl Brooks' keynote at the Farm Progress Show focused on the task of reducing non-point pollution, specifically nutrient loss from agriculture. He emphasized the importance for the agriculture industry to continue proactively implementing practices and partnering with organizations to strive towards environmental sustainability. <http://www.agrimarketing.com/s/91096>

**AgWeb (blog) - An Illinois Farmer Adds His Voice in a Message to EPA: Ditch the Rule** - 9/11/14 - Let me tell you about another semantic mystery: waterways. They aren't always what they seem either—and yet they're at the center of a new push by federal regulators to gain more control over farmland and other pieces of private property. [http://www.agweb.com/blog/the\\_truth\\_about\\_trade/an\\_illinois\\_farmer\\_adds\\_his\\_voice\\_in\\_a\\_message\\_to\\_epa\\_ditch\\_the\\_rule/](http://www.agweb.com/blog/the_truth_about_trade/an_illinois_farmer_adds_his_voice_in_a_message_to_epa_ditch_the_rule/)

**National Hog Farmer - More About: Manure Management** - 9/10/14 - With harvest nearing, pork producers and grain farmers will soon prep for fall field nutrient applications. The Illinois Pork Producers Association reminds pork producers to pay attention to details, as they pump manure that will be applied on crop acres as a sustainable fertilizer option. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/business/attention-detail-assures-maximum-nutrient-level-manure>

**National Hog Farmer - NPPC Helps Pass Bill to Stop Water Rule** - 9/9/14 - The U.S. House this week voted 262-152 to approve legislation that would prevent the development and implementation of a regulation expanding the scope of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to cover most of the country's water bodies, ditches and gullies, a rule that would be particularly detrimental to agriculture. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/business/nppc-helps-pass-bill-stop-water-rule>

**Brownfield Ag News - More efforts to stop** - 9/10/14 - More efforts are underway to try and stop the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule. As the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meets this week, North Dakota's Ag Commissioner will submit an action item for approval by NASDA members calling for the withdrawal of the proposed rule, according to Politico. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/10/more-efforts-to-stop-water-rule/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Reduce input costs by managing nitrogen** - 9/10/14 - With corn prices at the lowest levels farmers have seen in recent years, managing inputs is becoming more important. Purdue Extension corn specialist Bob Nielsen says that means farmers need to evaluate their nitrogen program.

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/10/reduce-input-costs-by-managing-nitrogen/>

**Iowa City Press-Citizen - Tallgrass taking root as UI biofuel** - 9/11/14 - Dan Black's farm is your usual slice of Iowa countryside. There's corn and soybeans, and plenty of it. This year, however, Black has set a portion of his land aside for a plant that is anything but typical for an Iowa farm. <http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/education/university-of-iowa/2014/09/11/tallgrass-taking-root-ui-biofuel/15431163/>

**Radio Iowa - Galva ethanol plant adds cellulosic capability** - 9/9/14 - Just days after the grand opening of POET-DSM's cellulosic ethanol plant in Emmetsburg, another northwest Iowa-based cellulosic ethanol project is in the spotlight. Quad County Corn Processors of Galva is holding a grand opening event today for its new "bolt-on" biorefinery that is turning corn kernel fibers into cellulosic ethanol. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/09/09/galva-ethanol-plant-adds-cellulosic-capability/>

**E&E Daily - Sen. Roberts presses Reid on newly approved House measure** - 9/11/14 - Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) is pressing Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to take up a House measure passed this week that would block a controversial Obama administration water proposal. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060005609/>

**Agri-Pulse - Open Mike with Rep. Steve King (audio)** - 9/8/14 - Iowa's 4th District Representative Steve King says a budget agreement for the new fiscal year is a top legislative priority for the House of Representatives this month. On regulations, King says the EPA's Waters of the U. S. Rule is an administrative over reach and another example of an overzealous administration. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Open-Mic-Steve-King-09082014.asp>

**Christian Science Monitor - With immigration postponed, Congress seizes on Obama's coal plan (+video)** - 9/10/14 - Obama's plan to curb coal-fired emissions is in the spotlight now that the president has postponed executive action on immigration until after the midterm elections. Republican lawmakers blasted the proposed EPA rules Tuesday at a hearing on the policy's implications for state regulators. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0910/With-immigration-postponed-Congress-seizes-on-Obama-s-coal-plan-video>

**Brownfield Ag News - Developed with the farmer in mind** - 9/9/14 - So..you're collecting all this data from the farm, now the question is, what are you going to do with it? Craig Rogers is Technical Lead for FARMserver, a web-based tool that centralizes your data. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/09/developed-with-the-farmer-in-mind/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Veto override attempt narrowly fails** - 9/11/14 - An attempt to override the veto of a big ag bill failed last night by just one vote in the Missouri legislature. A lawmaker changed his vote from "yay" to "nay" at the last minute. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/11/veto-override-attempt-narrowly-fails/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Letter: An Opportunity for Republican and Democratic Legislators to Work Together for City Neighborhoods** - 9/9/14 - SB 731 provides a self-help tool that empowers city neighborhood organizations to help themselves in combating blight. Democrats and Republicans should come together during the veto session, as they did during the regular session, to support this legislation and override Governor Nixon's misinformed veto of SB 731. <http://interact.stltoday.com/pr/local-news/PR090914010818517>

**Mason City Globe Gazette (Iowa) - Water quality regulations focus of CL meeting** - 9/10/14 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials met with eight area residents on Tuesday to discuss Iowa water-quality regulations. The event at the Clear Lake Lakeview Room was part of the three-year review cycle for standards imposed under the federal Clean Water Act. [http://globegazette.com/news/local/water-quality-regulations-focus-of-cl-meeting/article\\_42fa8fb0-e360-5098-a4ed-8f308c52d1a9.html](http://globegazette.com/news/local/water-quality-regulations-focus-of-cl-meeting/article_42fa8fb0-e360-5098-a4ed-8f308c52d1a9.html)

**Drovers CattleNetwork - Corn bumper crop exceeds storage** - 9/10/14 - University of Missouri Extension offers farmers help and options to store and dry 2014's bumper corn crop. MU Extension's website lists guides and customized spreadsheets to help producers make decisions about storage options.

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/latest/Corn-bumper-crop-exceeds-storage-274612161.html>

**Christian Science Monitor - Biofuels: Why this plant could be a game-changer for renewable fuel** – 9/10/14 - A new biofuel factory in Iowa uses farm waste to produce renewable fuel on a large, commercial scale. Unlike corn-based ethanol, this so-called cellulosic ethanol doesn't push up food prices or use farm space.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0910/Biofuels-Why-this-plant-could-be-a-game-changer-for-renewable-fuel>

**USA Today - Blue and red states going green on energy policy** - 9/11/14 - Politically "red" and "blue" states are increasingly turning green as they push energy efficiency and renewable power to save money and protect the planet, says a report today with prominent bi-partisan support.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/09/11/blue-and-red-states-turn-green-energy-wise/15402293/>

**Chemical & Engineering News - Stratospheric Ozone Layer On The Mend—But Another Problem Has Arisen** - 9/11/14 - Stratospheric ozone is on a path to recover in the next 35 years from depletion by industrial chemicals, a new United Nations report says. But it warns that climate benefits from the global phaseout of ozone-depleting substances may be eliminated by emissions of ozone-friendly replacement compounds that are potent greenhouse gases.

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/web/2014/09/Stratospheric-Ozone-Layer-MendAnother-Problem.html>

**USA Today - People near 'fracking' wells report health woes** - 9/10/14 - People living near natural-gas wells were more than twice as likely to report upper-respiratory and skin problems than those farther away, says a major study Wednesday on the potential health effects of fracking.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/09/10/people-near-fracking-wells-health-symptoms/15337797/>

**IO9 - The Republican Party's Secret Stance on Climate Change** - 9/11/14 - Though many Republican political figures once supported legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions, they're not doing it anymore. Still, it seems that many of these conservatives privately agree that climate change is a real problem. They just won't admit it publicly. <http://io9.com/many-gop-politicians-privately-agree-climate-change-is-1632473961>

**The Hill - Feds move to prevent runaway oil trains** - 9/9/14 - The federal government is moving to prevent freight trains that are carrying crude oil from being left unattended and rolling away. <http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/217079-feds-move-to-prevent-runaway-oil-trains>

**Climate Central (blog) - States Suing to Stop CO2 Cuts Prep For Them Anyway** - 9/11/14 - Sue the Obama Administration to derail its plan to slash carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants, but prepare for the cuts anyway. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/states-suing-to-stop-co2-cuts-prep-for-them-anyway-18013>

**NPR - Ozone Levels Bounce Back, Showing First Increase In 35 Years** - 9/11/14 - Remember the giant hole in the Earth's ozone layer? Scientists say it's shrinking a little, thanks in part to the elimination of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, beginning in the 1980s. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2014/09/11/347642658/ozone-levels-bounce-back-showing-first-increase-in-35-years>

**Environmental Leader - Report: EPA Should Use Sustainability Tools, Embrace Collaboration** - 9/11/14 - The EPA should incorporate sustainability tools in its decision making and collaborate with private-sector companies and non-government organizations, according to a report by the National Research Council.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/09/11/report-epa-should-use-sustainability-tools-embrace-collaboration/>

**Pittsburg Tribune-Review (Penn.) - Yale, Penn State studies offer conflicting views of fracking** - 9/10/14 - Two academic studies exploring health and water issues in the gas drilling industry on Wednesday painted very different pictures of its potential impact and brought rebukes from advocates on both sides

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/6772348-74/health-state-studies>

**The Guardian - The everyday hazard that kills over 3 million people each year** - 9/10/14 - Household air pollution, which mostly occurs through the use of solid fuels for cooking, heating and lighting, leads to the death of over 3m people each year with poorer countries most at risk. <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/sep/10/the-everyday-hazard-that-kills-over-3-million-people-each-year>

**Politico - U.S. grid safe from large-scale attack, experts say** - 9/10/14 - The specter of a large-scale, destructive attack on the U.S. power grid is at the center of much strategic thinking about cybersecurity. But, the half-dozen security experts interviewed for this article agreed it's virtually impossible for an online-only attack to cause a widespread or prolonged outage of the North American power grid. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/power-grid-safety-110815.html>

**The Guardian - Adapting to climate change can't be left to the wild west of the markets** - 9/10/14 - Extreme weather events are expensive, and will put further strain on debt-laden states. But private finance is not the answer. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/10/adapting-climate-change-markets-extreme-weather-events-expensive>

**ABC News - Scientists: Strong Solar Storm Heading to Earth** - 9/10/14 - A strong solar flare is blasting its way to Earth, but the worst of its power looks like it will barely skim above the planet and not cause many problems. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/scientists-extreme-solar-storm-heading-earth-25416134>

**Mashable - Finally, Good Environmental News: The Ozone Layer Is Recovering** - 9/10/14 - After years of cutting emissions of ozone-depleting substances known as Chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, and halons, scientists are detecting signs of recovery in the thin upper reaches of the stratosphere, according to a major U.N. report released Wednesday. <http://mashable.com/2014/09/10/the-ozone-layer-is-finally-recovering-but-gains-are-fragile-with-links-to-climate-scientists-say/>

**Wall Street Journal (blog) - Water Fight: House Republicans Take On EPA** - 9/11/14 - If a ditch fills with rainwater – and nobody's around to see it – can it still be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency? That's a question at the heart of a skirmish between EPA and House Republicans as the agency seeks to define which streams, wetlands, ditches, ponds and other water bodies fall under its jurisdiction. <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/09/10/water-fight-house-republicans-take-on-epa/>

**Delta Farm Press - House votes to halt expansion of EPA waterways authority** - 9/10/14 - Following passage of H.R. 5078, Oklahoma Rep. Frank Lucas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, urged a Senate vote on the bill and said the EPA's approach "is an underhanded way to harm American agriculture and threaten America's food security." Further, Lucas said he is "pleased the House approved this bipartisan, commonsense bill to block the EPA from expanding its control of our nation's land and water resources. <http://deltafarmpress.com/government/house-votes-halt-expansion-epa-waterways-authority>

**Bloomberg BNA - No Proof EPA Pollution Prevention Program Works as Claimed: Report** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has no proof that a key pollution prevention program has cut U.S. use of hazardous materials as claimed, the agency's inspector general said in a report. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-10/no-proof-epa-pollution-prevention-program-works-as-claimed-report.html>

**Capital Press - Judge allows lawsuit against EPA to proceed** - 9/10/14 - Critics of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can proceed with a lawsuit that accuses top agency officials of unlawfully deleting text messages. [http://www.capitalpress.com/Nation\\_World/Nation/20140910/judge-allows-lawsuit-against-epa-to-proceed](http://www.capitalpress.com/Nation_World/Nation/20140910/judge-allows-lawsuit-against-epa-to-proceed)

**Farm Futures - 'Green Revolutions' Typically Beneficial, but Environmental Impact Uncertain in Africa** - 9/11/14 - Purdue University researchers use economic modeling to study carbon emission effects of agricultural revolution in Africa. <http://farmfutures.com/story-green-revolutions-typically-beneficial-environmental-impact-uncertain-africa-0-117521>

**Grist - Kochs backing out of blue-state Senate races** - 9/9/14 - Sorry Charlie (and David): It turns out there are some things money can't buy, like Senate races in liberal states. And that means the Democrats just might keep control of the Senate. <http://grist.org/politics/kochs-backing-out-of-blue-state-senate-races/>

**Mother Jones - How Hillary Clinton's State Department Sold Fracking to the World** - 9/11/14 - A trove of secret documents details the US government's global push for shale gas. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/09/hillary-clinton-fracking-shale-state-department-chevron>

**New Republic - Here's the GOP's Best Shot At Derailing Obama's Climate Plan** - 9/11/14 - Conservatives argue that existing power plants are already regulated under another section of the law, so Section 111(d) shouldn't apply. The EPA used this second section, Section 112, as the legal grounds for regulating mercury pollution from existing power plants. <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119400/gop-legal-challenges-epa-coal-power-plant-rule>

**E&E Daily - Irrigation problems nothing new for tribes** - 9/11/14 - The Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing yesterday wasn't the first -- and tribal leaders don't anticipate it will be the last -- to raise the issue of dilapidated irrigation systems on American Indian reservations. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060005619/>

**E&E Daily - EPA to host webinars on power rule in run-up to comment deadline** - 9/9/14 - U.S. EPA will host more webinars tomorrow and next week aimed at answering questions for stakeholders still grappling with its June 2 proposal for greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060005497/>

**Greenwire - Want to clear smoggy city air? Plant more trees -- study** - 9/9/14 - Planting trees can be a cost-effective remedy to ozone pollution in cities with persistent air quality problems, according to a study that examined urban reforestation as a means of controlling ground-level ozone. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005478/>

**Greenwire - EPA labeling program may be 'misleading' consumers -- IG** - 9/9/14 - A key voluntary U.S. EPA program to let manufacturers tout safer chemicals in consumer products needs to be updated because it is confusing to customers, the agency's inspector general said in a new report. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005482/>

**E&E Daily - Judge bars former EPA official from testifying in enforcement suit** - 9/10/14 - A federal judge yesterday disqualified former U.S. EPA air chief Jeff Holmstead as an expert witness backing a Missouri power plant in an agency enforcement lawsuit. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060005574>

**ClimateWire - Global economy still 'blowing through' its carbon budget, but glimmers of hope seen in developing countries -- PwC** - 9/10/14 - Since edging out the windmill, the water wheel, whale oil and the wood stove as the world's primary source of energy, fossil fuels have been closely tied to the global economy. That relationship will have to change if the world is to both continue economic growth and head off the worst impacts of climate change. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005443/>

**ClimateWire - City planners avoid politics of 'climate change' label, saying they just want to 'get ready'** - 9/10/14 - Community leaders nationwide are preparing for climate change without using the term -- replacing it with words like "sustainability" and "resilience," subtly avoiding political quagmires and partisan bickering. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005506/>

**ClimateWire - Utilities invest in gas and solar; coal, not so much** - 9/10/14 - Natural gas turbines accounted for more than half of all new utility-scale electricity generation added to the U.S. grid in the first six months of 2014. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005526/>

**Greenwire - Watchdog faults McCarthy's handling of homeland security dispute** - 9/10/14 - U.S. EPA chief Gina McCarthy's proposal to resolve a long-standing conflict with the inspector general's office isn't good enough and her agency is still blocking access to information, EPA's independent watchdog told House lawmakers today. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005564/>

**Greenwire - Local focus important to maximize benefit from national labs -- report** - 9/10/14 - Although many refer to the Energy Department's national lab system as the "crown jewels" of U.S. innovation, a new report says a greater focus on regional industry partnerships could increase U.S. innovation-driven economic growth. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005571/>

**E&E Daily - Democrats, Republicans spar over 'climate denier' label during House hearing on EPA carbon rule** - 9/10/14 - A hearing yesterday on U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan gave way at times to semantic angling, as House Democrats sought to frame resistance to the plan as a rejection of climate science and Republicans pushed back, at times testily, against the label of "climate denier." <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060005538>

**BNA - New Water Storage Construction Expected Under Bill to Streamline Reclamation Projects** - 9/10/14 - Legislation expediting the permitting and planning process at the Bureau of Reclamation would allow construction of new storage that is badly needed in the drought-stricken West, witnesses told a House Natural Resources subcommittee Sept. 10. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150516&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4n4e1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150516&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4n4e1&split=0)

**BNA - Water Utilities Responsible for Generating \$524 Billion in Revenue Over Next Decade** - 9/10/14 - Thirty of the nation's top public wastewater and drinking water utilities collectively plan to invest an average of \$23 billion each year over the next decade, which will generate an estimated \$524 billion and support 289,000 jobs, according to a report released Sept. 10. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150491&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t3r5q2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150491&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t3r5q2&split=0)

**BNA - Academies Says EPA Needs System to Assess Interconnected Aspects of Major Decisions** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency should develop a strategy to assess the interconnected environmental, social and economic dimensions of every major decision it makes, the National Academies said in a report issued Sept. 10. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150497&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4b5f0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150497&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4b5f0&split=0)

**BNA - Solutions to Herbicide Resistance Must Account for Human Element, Scientists Say** - 9/10/14 - New solutions are needed to address the alarming rise in weeds resistant to herbicides because this problem has grown too widespread and complex for current management tactics, agricultural scientists said at a conference on the topic Sept. 10. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150505&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4g8r0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150505&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4g8r0&split=0)

**BNA - Petroleum Group Meets with OMB On Products Used in Oil Spill Cleanups** - 9/10/14 - A leading petroleum industry group told the White House Office of Management and Budget dispersants play a critical role in responding to oil spills as the Environmental Protection Agency considers modifying what substances can be used in oil spill response. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150489&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t3q9j2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150489&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t3q9j2&split=0)

**BNA - Inspector General Says EPA Security Office Has Impeded Probes, Withheld Information** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Homeland Security continues to impede the work of its internal oversight investigators, the agency's inspector general told lawmakers Sept. 10. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150518&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t7v7g1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150518&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t7v7g1&split=0)

**BNA - Health of Vulnerable Groups Would Benefit From Power Plant Rule, EPA Air Official Says** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule (RIN 2060-AR33) to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would result in "significant health improvements" for vulnerable populations, including children, according to an agency official. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150512&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4m8a0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150512&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t4m8a0&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Proposal Aims to Clarify Federal Ambient Air Monitoring Requirements** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to clarify existing requirements for agencies that conduct ambient air monitoring for ozone, particulate matter and other criteria pollutants. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=56150494&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0f5t3x6k8&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56150494&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0f5t3x6k8&split=0)

**Inside EPA - COS Eyes CWA Rule Legal Review To Help States Decide Policy Positions** - 9/10/14 - The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) at its upcoming annual meeting will unveil a legal review it commissioned on EPA's proposed Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule. <http://insideepa.com/201409102481199/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/ecos-eyes-cwa-rule-legal-review-to-help-states-decide-policy-positions/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Urban Emissions Report Spurs Call For New Gasoline Air Toxics Rule** - 9/10/14 - EPA's recently released assessment of urban air toxics highlights a need to impose new regulations to drive down emissions from gasoline combustion. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409102481136/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/epa-urban-emissions-report-spurs-call-for-new-gasoline-air-toxics-rule/menu-id-202.html>

**Inside EPA - Industry Suits Add To Uncertainty Over Venue For EPA Cooling Water Case** - 9/11/14 - Energy industry groups have filed suit over EPA's Clean Water Act (CWA) cooling water rule in three separate appellate circuits they see as more favorable for them, separate from the three other circuits where environmentalists have filed suit. <http://insideepa.com/201409112481261/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-suits-add-to-uncertainty-over-venue-for-epa-cooling-water-suit/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - Doubting GHG Rules' Withdrawal, Critics Step Up Attacks Over Missing Data** - 9/11/14 - Industry and other critics of EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) rules for power plants are stepping up their efforts to have the agency withdraw the rules for allegedly lacking key technical data needed to justify the policies after officials rejected prior efforts to withdraw the measures for allegedly violating threshold legal issues. <http://insideepa.com/201409112481262/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/doubting-ghg-rules-withdrawal-critics-step-up-attacks-over-missing-data/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - Court's Award Of Fees To Utility Could Discourage Air Law Citizen Suits** - 9/10/14 - A federal district court judge's award of more than \$6 million in litigation expenses to Texas utility Luminant following a Clean Air Act citizen suit could have a chilling effect on other advocate-filed litigation aiming to enforce the air law. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-09/12/2014/courts-award-of-fees-to-utility-could-discourage-air-law-citizen-suits/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Signals Shift In CWA Permitting Strategy In New 'Visioning' Talks** - 9/10/14 - EPA is shifting the focus of its Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program away from clearing a backlog of pending permit applications and toward prioritizing the issuance of permits that achieve "environmentally significant" water quality protection goals. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-09/12/2014/epa-signals-shift-in-cwa-permitting-strategy-in-new-visioning-talks/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - NAS Panel Urges Greater Integration Of 'Sustainability' In EPA Activities** - 9/10/14 - A National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel is recommending that EPA "embed" the use of sustainability tools into its major activities in line with its statutory authorities. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-09/12/2014/nas-panel-urges-greater-integration-of-sustainability-in-epa-activities/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - Children's Health Advisors Weigh Pushing EPA To Tighten Lead NAAQS** - 9/10/14 - EPA children's health advisors are weighing whether to press the agency to strengthen its national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for lead, raising concerns about the adequacy of EPA's monitoring of air lead levels and noting the substance poses risks at very low levels. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-09/12/2014/childrens-health-advisors-weigh-pushing-epa-to-tighten-lead-naaqs/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Mid-2015 For Proposing Next RFS** - 9/10/14 - EPA is saying it will take until at least mid-2015 before it can issue a proposed renewable fuel standard

(RFS) setting fuel production targets for 2015. <http://insideepa.com/201409102481156/EPA-Blog/News-Briefs/epa-eyes-mid-2015-for-proposing-next-rfs/menu-id-97.html>

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

*Example:* **Time-Critical Removal Action, Chemco Industries, Inc., Superfund Site, Topeka, Kansas** - 2/8/08 - Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

#### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**9/14-17/14** – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**9/30/14** – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

**\*10/2/14** – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**\*10/4/14** – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/9/14** – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

**10/10/14** – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/18/14** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

#### **DRA:**

**9/16/14** - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart

**10/7/14** - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

**9/30/14 - 10/2/14** - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

**9/30/14** – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

**SUPR**

**9/10-11/14** – Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) Command Executive Seminar with General Jacoby, Kansas City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**9/18/14** – Northeast Missouri Regional Hazmat Planning Meeting, Macon, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**9/19/14** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**10/22/14** – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

## **WWPD**

**9/8-11/14** – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

**9/10-11/14** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment Geology Seminar presentations, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

**9/15-16/14** – State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group Pesticide Operations and Management Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139

**9/15-17/14** – U.S. Water Alliance 2014 One Water Leadership Summit, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**9/18-19/14** – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

**9/30-10/2/14** – North Central Region Water Network's Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

## **Wall Street Journal**

### **Water Fight: House Republicans Take On EPA**

By TENNILLE TRACY  
9/10/14

If a ditch fills with rainwater – and nobody's around to see it – can it still be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency?

That's a question at the heart of a skirmish between EPA and House Republicans as the agency seeks to define which streams, wetlands, ditches, ponds and other water bodies fall under its jurisdiction. Once classified as a "water of the U.S.," the water body comes under EPA control and is subject to permits and restrictions under the Clean Water Act. Landowners, including farmers and ranchers, fear they'll be unable to conduct routine activities on their properties without first obtaining potentially costly permits.

The House on Tuesday voted to block the EPA from moving forward on a proposal the agency released in April with the Army Corps of Engineers. The proposal sought to define a "water of the U.S." that is then subject to the Clean Water Act.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 262 to 152. The mostly Republican contingent in favor of the measure said EPA was executing a power grab that would force landowners to get costly permits for routine activities.

“This is a massive federal jurisdiction grab,” said Rep. Bill Shuster (R., Pa.), chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The White House threatened to veto the House bill. It said that the measure “would sow more confusion and invite more conflict.”

The Senate is unlikely to follow the House’s lead as long as Democrats are calling the shots there. A bill introduced by Wyoming Republican John Barrasso has nearly 40 GOP co-sponsors but it has not moved out of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) from California, the top producing agricultural state in the U.S.

The fate of Republican-led efforts to stop EPA could change if the Senate falls to the GOP after November. For now, it’s a messaging bill aimed at attacking the Obama administration.

House Republicans routinely assert that the EPA oversteps its bounds. Recently, they said the agency went too far when it crafted carbon dioxide standards for existing power plants. They argued Congress never intended for the EPA to tackle carbon dioxide emissions when it wrote the Clean Air Act.

The EPA is attempting to define a “water of the U.S.” after the Supreme Court tried to shape that definition – and created additional uncertainty – in a pair of cases from 2001 and 2006. The EPA says it is now attempting to resolve the “gray area.”

Concern is particularly acute among farmers, who fear they’ll have to get new government approvals for applying fertilizer or pesticides on dry channels of land that temporarily fill with water after heavy rains.

One part of the Clean Water Act requires landowners to get permits before putting pollutants in the water. The American Farm Bureau Federation said the permitting process could cost tens of thousands of dollars and delay time-sensitive work for farmers and ranchers.

“The EPA is not trying to regulate water. They’re trying to regulate [land] features,” says Don Parrish, a senior director at the farm bureau.

Defining EPA’s jurisdiction over water is more easily said than done. Just what exactly constitutes a tributary, for example, has been the source of considerable debate between EPA and landowners. Experts have resorted to using the dictionary in testimony before Congress.

The EPA recently released a map of water features that it compiled in the wake of the Supreme Court cases. The EPA says it has no intention of using the map to make jurisdictional decisions. But the overwhelming network of lines tracking rivers, streams and canals across the country raised the ire of Republicans.

Ken Kopocis, deputy assistant administrator of EPA’s water office, says the agency is targeting waters that have a “significant” connection to a larger navigable body of water. The theory is, regardless of where it originated, pollution in a tributary heading downstream will eventually make it to a water body used for drinking water, fishing or recreation.

According to the EPA, about 60% of stream miles flow only after rain or during certain times of the year. More than 115 million people get drinking water from sources that rely in part on these streams.

The EPA says its proposal is modest in scope. Compared with current practices, it will result in a 3% increase in the number of cases where the agency determines a water

body falls under its jurisdiction, the EPA says.

“We do not consider that to be an expansion of the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act,” Mr. Kopocis said.

Mr. Parrish of the farm bureau says the EPA is dramatically underestimating its impact. He says the agency will have new oversight authority over millions of miles of streams. “Virtually all” farmers will be impacted, he said.